Dear Howard, 10/23/76

Jim was here for an hour or so this afternoon. Updates.

Yesterday he filed a $4,000,000 suit vs Edward Bennett Williams et al for Lil and me. His present and past partner and Taft, his then lawyer, now Assistant AG Lands are included. In D.C. Superior Court. We've done nothing to attract attention to it and I at least plan nothing like it for now. I'll see if - and how-they react other than by moving to dismiss. It is for letting the statute of limitations run, helicopter case.

The judge in the transcripts case, 75-1448, has set the 18th or 19th for seeing where we are with the interrogatories now two months plus overdue. I think it will go to trial with them claiming the CIA can't be required to answer interrogatories when it is not the defendant. Or a defendant. I'd like to litigate that. I hope to start it this coming week, not later than Thursday, by telling the story of the 5/19 transcript and how the machinery of his government is being misused to protect Ford from his McCarthyism. If I do not ~~arrange~~ arrange a story earlier I'll hold a press conference then.

It is a good story therefore I'm not optimistic.

I have a press release drafted. I've been trying to reach Floyd and didn't so when one of the college woman - she groaned and said I'm 20!- was here I gave it to her so copies can be made a distributed in D.C.

I don t know if the judge will like it or not but Jim and I both believe that the reason he has not acted on the in camera inspection is fear of making a political issue.

I happen to think he could have acted and let them appeal.

If he doesn t like it too bad. I'm in a position to make a case of the courts allowing themselves to become party in non-compliance. I've done it once and can do it easier in this case. If he pushed me I'll remember Ford as Edsel. But I do not expect anything like this.

Jim is moving into an office this week so he'll not be able to get much done. As soon as he catches up on other things he'll be filing over my personal files. I have a notion it them might be good to do an atypical thing if the signs are encouraging - include all the unresponded to requests

In the a.m. I'm going to draft an affidavit to give Jim for filing before the next status call in 75-226, the spectro remand. The AUSA lied, I asked him to tell the judge, I'll swear to this and let the judge worry. They are bilking me by lies and I'm going to get a little more affirmative on it. I think it is now not unlikely that there are those in the Congress who even if lawyers have had enough of this.

I'll attach my letters that have had no response. They say he is a liar and he did not even deny it, as he can't. This time, although Jim is not going to use it now, I happen to have a witness. Not just Jim and me.

There is no other way of moving this off dead center. Or saving the Act.

I had just settled ~~won~~ down to read your law review article when I decided to go out and do some more work. I put my muddy shoes on when Jim came. I gave him the issue in return for a xerox I'll get later in the week. I'm still working on the pond inlet. Almost to xxxx where water will flow in again.

Discovered waxy scale on the pines today. JL says it can kill them. Oh, my! All those beautiful pines and the beautiful privacy they give!

Best,